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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	CS-3/538,398
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: Western European (B) with access to persons with contacts in Vatican circles. Appraisal of Content: 2.

Headquarters Comment: Although a considerable portion of the following is overt, the general topic of Metropolitan Slipyy's release is considered of sufficient interest to merit dissemination of all source's comments. Since this information was received, rumors have appeared in the Western European press that Slipyy may be returning to resume his position in the Ukraine following the next session of the Ecumenical Council, and has therefore been reticent about commenting to any great extent about his recent imprisonment.

It is the opinion of observers in a position to comment authoritatively that the recent release from prison of Metropolitan Slipyy and his arrival in the West is a political and propaganda achievement for the Soviet Government. By sending Slipyy to the West, the Soviets ~~wrote~~ wrote the last chapter of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Ukrainian SSR. Had Slipyy died a martyr in a Soviet prison or remained in the Soviet Union, the Church's cause would undoubtedly have been better served.

2. Metropolitan Slipyy was born in 1892 in the western Ukraine. He studied theology at the seminary in Lvov and later at the Jesuit seminary in Innsbruck. In 1922 he was assigned the professorship of dogmatic theology at the seminary in Lvov. In 1926 he was appointed rector of the Lvov seminary. He was consecrated auxiliary bishop to Metropolitan Sheptytsky whom he later succeeded after Sheptytsky's death in November 1944. While Sheptytsky was honored by the entire western Ukrainian population, Slipyy was disliked by many who considered him stubborn and demanding.

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3. On 11 April 1945, along with other Ukrainian bishops, Metropolitan Slipyy was arrested by the Soviets and deported to Siberia. Most of the bishops died in prison, with the exception of the Uzhgorod bishop, Romzha, who died in a supposedly faked motor accident in November 1947.
4. Metropolitan Slipyy is very intelligent and shrewd and possibly might influence Vatican policy toward the East. He might be able to convince the Vatican that implementation of the Eastern church should be attempted through Kiev as well as through Moscow. He has on his side the older Catholic tradition and the historically stronger Catholic tendency in the Ukraine.

Field Comment: Source claimed it had been rumored that negotiations for the release of priests being held in prison have been going on between the Vatican and Moscow for several years. Rome was very lukewarm in its reactions to the defection of Father Korniyevsky and it may be that it did not want to jeopardize the progress made in negotiations with Moscow up until that time.